BACKWASH DEVICE OF FILTER HAVING HOLLOW FIBER MEMBRANE

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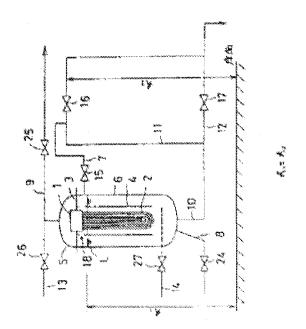
- European:

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Abstract of JP2277528

PURPOSE: To efficiently remove the impurities by providing an outlet nozzle of backwash water in the specified position so that the liquid level in a drum covering the outside of a protective pipe is not lowered to the level not higher than a definite one. CONSTITUTION:A discharge port 10 of backwash water provided to the bottom part of a drum 6 is branched into both a backwash vent line 11 and a discharge line 12 of backwash water. The uppermost part of the tubular inner face of the backwash vent line 11 is positioned to the height h2 from a floor face. The relation of both this height h2 and the water level h1 of a filter at a time of bubbling is shown by h1=h2. A backwash bent valve 16 and a discharge valve 17 of backwash water are provided respectively. Further a communication valve 15 is provided to a communication pipe 7 for connecting the upper part of the drum 6 to the backwash vent line 11. When the communication valve 15 and the backwash vent valve 16 are simultaneously opened, siphon phenomena are prevented and the liquid level of the filter is stopped in a state wherein it has been accurately controlled to the necessary liquid level at the time of bubbling. Thereby the state of a pneumatic pump is always maintained and the whole backwash time is effectively utilized and therefore backwash efficiency is enhanced.



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図発明の名称 中空糸

中空糸膜ろ過器の逆洗装置

②特 願 平1-98903

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明細書

1. 発明の名称

中空系膜ろ過器の逆洗装置

- 2. 特許請求の範囲
- (1) 少なくとも1本の多孔質中空糸膜モジュールと、この中空糸膜モジュールを保持する管板に接続し該中空糸膜モジュールを保護するための保護管の外側を覆う胴と、このに接続した液の保護管の外側を覆う胴と、このに接続にない。 た液の保護管の外側を覆う胴と、このに接続にとれた変に、 た液の外側をででが、このに接続にないの保護での外側をででが、 でで、では、 を用いるのでででは、 を用いるのででは、 を用いるのででは、 を用いることを特徴とする中空糸膜ろ過器のが が、装置。
- (2) 前記胴内の液位を一定以下に低下させないようにする手段として、逆洗水出口ノズルを逆洗中の胴内の必要液位以上に立ち上げかつ該ノズルと胴の上部側面との間に連通管を設けてなることを特徴とする請求項1記載の中空糸膜ろ過器の逆洗

装置。

- (3) 前記胴内の液位を一定以下に低下しないようにする手段として、逆洗水出口ノズルを逆洗中の胴内の必要液位以上に立ち上げかつ該ノズルにサイホンプレーク弁を設けてなることを特徴とする請求項1記載の中空糸膜ろ過器の逆洗装置。
- 3. 発明の詳細な説明

[発明の目的]

(産業上の利用分野)

本発明は液体中の不純物の除去等に用いられる 効率的な中空系膜ろ過器の逆洗装置に関する。

(従来の技術)

一般に中空系膜はその外径が 0.3~3 mm程度で 微細な孔を有する中空状の繊維膜であり、単位容 積当たりの膜面積を大きくとることができる。ま た、外径が小さく耐圧性に優れているので精密 週用,限外沪過用,逆浸透用,逆浸透用など野 過器用として電子工業,医学,原子力等の分野で 純水製造,排水処理等に広く活用されている。

中空糸膜ろ過器は第5図に示したように細長い

ところで、このような中空糸膜ろ過器において、効率的な逆洗方法を見出すことは中空糸膜ろ過器の適用範囲を拡大する上で非常に重要であり、種々の発明・考案がなされている。例えば、特開昭53-108882号公報には圧力空気による逆

て中空糸膜の劣化の一因となる課題が生じる。

さらに、これらの逆洗手段を効果的に実施するには、逆洗初期に逆洗空気によって押し出される逆流水の流速を一定以上に取ることが必要であり、この逆洗水の圧損により、ベントノズルの口径が選定されるので大口径のベントノズルを設けることが必要となり、中空糸膜ろ過器が大型化する課題などがある。

本発明は上記課題を解決するためになされたもので、逆洗作業時の胴内の液位低下を防止し、かつ逆洗ベントラインの大型化を防止して逆洗効率を向上させた中空系膜ろ過器の逆洗装置を提供することにある。

[発明の構成]

(課題を解決するための手段)

本発明は少なくとも1本の多孔質中空糸膜モジュールと、この中空糸膜モジュールを保持する管板と、この管板に接続し該中空糸膜モジュール1本毎に該中空糸膜モジュールを保護するための保護管と、この保護管の外側を覆う個と、この個に

洗で付着微粒子を剥離するとともに中空糸膜を振動させて付着微粒子を除去する手段が開示されている。

また特開昭60-19002号公報には圧力空気による逆洗で付着微粒子を剥離するとともに中空系膜を振動させるための空気を該中空系膜の側方または下方から発生させ付着微粒子を除去する手段が開示されている。

(発明が解決しようとする課題)

しかしながら、特開昭53-108882号および特開昭60-19002号公報では胴内のの 位の挙動については記述されていない。これのの 手段により逆洗を実施すると逆洗中に胴内のになり が次第に減少するという現象が生じる。これでは で中空系膜モジュール上部が空気で中で を実施するのみならず、 大学で、中空系膜の種類による ののででは を生じる。また、中空系膜の種類によっては では、中空系膜が空気で ではまりで でもれることに でもない で

接続された液入口、液出口、逆洗水出口およびベントの機能を有するノズルとからなり、逆洗手段として空気を用いる中空系膜ろ過器の逆洗装置において、前記胴内の液位を一定以下に低下させないように構成してなることを特徴とする。

(作用)

バブリング時のろ過器の水位 h 1 と、逆洗ベントラインの管内面最上部の床面からの高さ h 2 とを等しく(h 1 = h 2)し、胴の上部と逆洗べて胴内の液位の低下を防止することができる。また胴内の液位の低下を防止することができるができる。なり、小口径となり、また連通管を兼用することができる。

さらにサイホンプレーク弁を設けることによっ てサイホン現象を防止することができる。

(実施例)

本発明に係る中空糸膜ろ過器の逆洗装置の第1 の実施例を第1図を用いて説明する。

第1図において符号1は中空系膜モジュールを 示し、これは多数本の中空糸膜2がそれぞれの両 端を上方に向けU字型に折り返されて集束され、 上部基部を樹脂で固定されて構成されている。こ の中空糸膜モジュール1は管板3から管板3と液 密に垂設されており、各中空系膜モジュール1を 覆うように保護管4が管板3に取り付けられてい る。この保護管4の上部にはベント穴18が設けら れている。中空糸膜ろ過器は液入口8と連通管7 と逆洗水排出口10とバアリング空気入口14を有す る胴6と液出口9を有する蓋5により管板3と中 空糸膜モジュール1が覆われる形で成り立ってい る。さらに、胴6の底部に設けられた逆洗水排出 口10は逆洗ベントライン11と逆洗水排出ライン12 に分岐し、逆洗ベントライン11の管内面最上部は 床面からh2 の髙さにある。パプリング時のろ過 器水位 h1 との関係は h1 = h2 となっており、 各々に逆洗ベント弁16と逆洗水排出弁17が設けら れている。

中空糸膜ろ過器の胴6の上部と逆洗ベントライ

しかしながら、時間が経つとともに胴6内の液位が徐々に下がり保護管4のベント穴18から勢いよく噴き出していた水は徐々にその勢いがなくか第3図のようになる。こうなると空気ポンプは態でなくなり、中空糸膜2の付け根部が洗浄されなくなるとともに保護管4内に中空糸膜2から剥離した付着不純物が滞留し中空糸膜2に再付着することになる。

このことは、空気バブリング時間(逆洗時間)が例えば30分間あったとしても胸6内の液位低がによる空気ポンプ状態喪失以降は、逆洗効果に生かないない。その時間が自然を生かないでない。でないでは、前述のように逆洗効果としてはいるのがで保護管4ののがでは、第5図の状態で保護が大力に流入するで、18から実施例の逆洗べン11に流入することによって発生する。

本実施例では、逆洗水排出口10をろ過器底部から設けたことによって逆洗初期の逆洗空気による

ン11を接続する連通管 7 には連通弁 15 が設けられている。

このような中空糸膜ろ過器で逆洗を実施する場合はまず液入口弁24と液出口弁25を閉じ、次に、逆洗空気弁26を開き中空糸膜ろ過器胴6の蓋5に貯留されている水を加圧する。そして、逆洗ベント弁16を開き、この水を勢いよく逆流させる。その後、パブリング空気弁27を開き、中空糸膜モジュール1の下部にパブリング空気を入れた状態を一定時間継続することによって逆洗を行う。

逆洗初期には第2図に示すように保護管4の中でパプリング空気の気泡22の作用によっていわゆる空気ポンプ状態となり、保護管4の中の水23は保護管4のベント穴18から勢いよく噴き出し保護管4の水が循環状態となる。これによって中空系膜モジュール1の上部の樹脂で中空系膜2の付け根部が洗浄されると共に保護管4内に中空系膜2から剥離した付着不純物が滞留し中空系膜2に再付着することはない。

これによって空気ポンプ状態が常に維持されて 逆洗時間全体が有効に使われることになり、逆洗 効率が向上する。逆洗効率の向上は中空系膜モジュールの寿命延長に寄与するばかりでなく、例え ば原子力発電所の放射性廃液または復水の処理に 用いるような場合には特に有効で定期点検時の作 業員の被曝低減にもつながる。

次に、本発明の第2の実施例について第4図を 用いて説明する。本発明の第1図に示すものと同 一のものについては同じ符号で示す。

図において、符号1は中空糸膜モジュールを示 し、これは多数本の中空糸膜2がそれぞれの両端 を上方に向けし字型に折り返されて集束され、上 部基部を樹脂で固定されている。この中空糸膜モ ジュール1は管板3から管板3と液密に垂設され ており、各中空糸膜モジュール1を覆うように保 護管4が管板3に取り付けられている。この保護 管4の上部にはベント穴18が設けられている。そ して、中空糸膜ろ過器は液入口8と連通管7と逆 洗水出口10とパプリング空気入口14を有する胴部 6と液出口9を有する蓋部5により管板3と中空 糸膜モジュール1が覆われる形で成り立っている。 さらに、胴部6の底部に設けられた逆洗水排出口 10は逆洗ベントライン11と逆洗水排出ライン12に 分岐し、逆洗ベントライン11の管内面最下部は床 面からh2 の高さにある。バブリング時のろ過器

が洗浄されるとともに保護管内に中空糸膜2から 剥離した付着不純物が滞留し中空糸膜2に再付着 することはない。

しかしながら、時間が経つとともに胴6内の液位が徐々に下がり保護管4のベント穴18から勢いよく噴き出していた水は徐々にその勢いがなくなり第3図のようになる。こうなると空気ポンプ状態でなくなり、中空糸膜2の付け根部が洗浄されなくなると共に保護管4内に中空糸膜2から剥離した付着不純物が滞留し中空糸膜2に再付着することとなる。

このことは空気バブリング時間(逆洗時間)が 例えば30分間あったとしても、胴6内の液位低下 による空気ボンプ状態喪失以降は逆洗効果がない。 なり、その時間が有効に生かされていないばかり でなく、前述のように逆洗効果としてはむしろ逆 効果となっているものと考えられる。この状態が 記きる原因は、第2図の状態で保護管4のベント 穴18から勢いよく噴き出した水が第5図に示す 来の実施例の逆洗ベントライン11に流入すること 水位 h₁ との関係は、h₁ = h₂ となっており、 各々に逆洗ベント弁16と逆洗水排出弁17が設けら れている。

逆洗ベントライン11にはサイホンプレーク弁19が設けられている。このような中空系膜ろ過器で逆洗を実施する場合はまず、液入口弁24と液出口弁25を閉じ、次に、逆洗空気弁26を開き中空系膜ろ過器の蓋部5に貯留されている水を加圧する。そして、逆洗ベント弁16を開き、この水を勢いよく逆流させる。その後、バブリグ空気弁27を開き、中空系膜モジュール下部にバブリング空気を入れた状態を一定時間継続することによって逆洗を行う。

逆洗初期には第2図に示すように保護管4の中でパブリング空気の気泡22の作用によっていわゆる空気ポンプ状態となり、保護管4内の水23は保護筒4のベント穴16から勢いよく噴き出し保護筒4の中の水が循環状態となる。これによって中空糸膜モジュール上部の樹脂で中空糸膜2が固定された部分の下端部すなわち中空糸膜2の付け根部

によって発生する。

本実施例では逆洗水排出口10をろ過器底部から 設けたことによって逆洗初期の逆洗空気による 5に溜っている水は中空糸膜2を逆洗し、ろ過器 底部から逆洗水排出口10,逆洗ベントライン110 億の排出される。逆洗ベントライン11の管内面 で設置したこととサイホング時必要で設置したこととサイホングでは に設置したこととがインブリング時必要に によって戸過液位はバブリング時必要まる にでにコントロールされた状態で確実に止す で流流を の気泡22の分だけは水が排出されるが、それ以下 に液位が低下することはない。

これによって空気ポンプ状態が常に維持され逆 洗時間全体が有効に使われることになり、逆洗効 率が向上する。逆洗効率の向上は中空糸膜モジュ ールの寿命延長に寄与するばかりでなく、例えば、 原子力発電所の放射性廃液または復水処理に用い るような場合には特に有用で定期点検時の作業員 の被曝低減にもつながる。

[発明の効果]

本発明によれば中空糸膜ろ過器の胴内の液位が一定以下に低下しないように構成することに効かって逆洗の効率向上を図ることができ、逆洗効率の向上によって中空糸膜の寿命を延長させることができる。また原子力発電所の放射性廃液,復水の処理に用いるような場合には特に有用で定期点検時の作業員の被曝低減にもつながる。

4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は本発明に係る中空糸膜ろ過器の逆洗装置の第1の実施例を示す系統図、第2図および第3図は本発明の作用を説明するための中空糸膜ろ過器の一部断面図、第4図は同じく本発明に係る逆洗装置の第2の実施例を示す系統図である。第5図は従来の中空糸膜ろ過器の逆洗装置を示す系統図である。

1…中空糸膜モジュール

2…中空糸膜

3 … 管板

24…液入口弁

25…液出口弁

26…逆洗空気弁

L…水位

4 … 保護管

5 … 蓋

6 … 順

7…連通管

8 … 液入口

9 … 液出口

10…逆洗水排出口

11…逆洗ベントライン

12…逆洗水排出ライン

13… 逆洗空気ライン

14… バブリング空気ライン

15… 連通弁

16…逆洗ベント弁

17…逆洗水排出弁

18…ベント穴

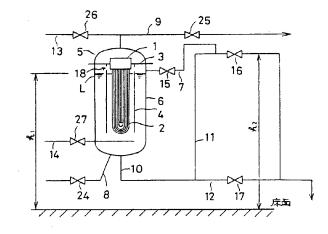
19…サイホンプレーク弁

20… パプリングベントライン

21…パブリングベント弁

22…バブリング空気

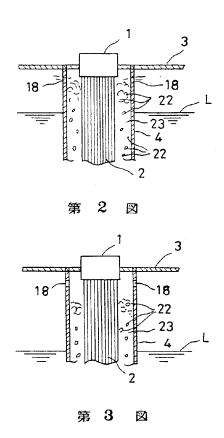
23…水

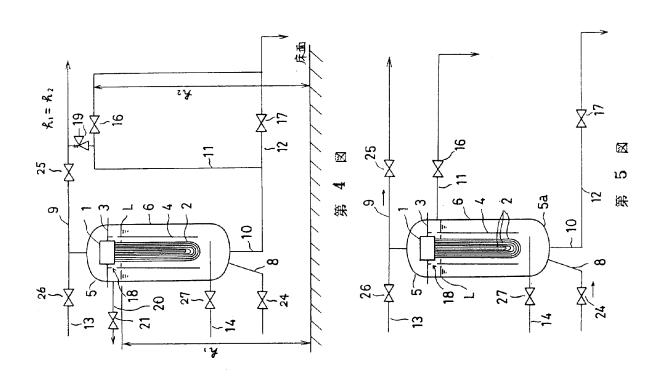


A1= A2

第 1 図

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REVERSE WASHING APPARATUS OF HOLLOW YARN MEMBRANE-FILTER [Chukushimakurokakino gyakusensochi]

Toshiba Corporation

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INVENTOR	(72):	Toshiba Corporation
APPLICANT	(71):	Toshiba Corporation
TITLE	(54):	REVERSE WASHING APPARATUS OF
		HOLLOW YARN MEMBRANE-FILTER
FOREIGN TITLE	[54A]:	Chukushimakurokakino gyakusensochi

Claims

- 1. A reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters is characterized in that in a reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters, which comprises at least one porous hollow yarn membrane-module, a tube plate for holding the hollow yarn membrane-module, a protecting tube connected to the tube plate to protect each hollow yarn membrane-module, a trunk covering the outside of the protecting tube, a liquid inlet, a liquid outlet, a reverse washing water discharge port and a nozzle having vent function, all of which are connected to the trunk, and uses air as a reverse washing means, it is constituted so as not to lower the liquid level in the trunk below a fixed level.
- 2. A reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters described in Claim 1 is characterized in that as the means for preventing the liquid level in the trunk falling below a fixed level, the reverse washing water outlet nozzle is raised to a required liquid level in the trunk during reverse washing and a communicating tube is installed between the nozzle and the upper side surface of the trunk.
- 3. A reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters is characterized in that as the means for preventing the liquid level in the trunk falling below a fixed level, the reverse washing water outlet nozzle is raised to a required liquid level in the trunk during reverse washing and a siphon brake valve is installed.

Detailed explanation of the invention

Objective of the invention

Industrial application field

The present invention relates to a reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters, which are effectively used for removal of impurities from liquids, etc.

Prior art

Hollow yarn membranes are hollow fiber membranes having outer diameter of generally about 0.3-3 mm and fine pores, and the membrane area per unit volume can be made large. Those have been widely used in pure water production, wastewater treatment, etc. in the fields of electronic industry, medicine, atomic energy, etc. as filters for precision filtration, ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis, etc. since the outer diameter is large and the pressure resistance is excellent.

A hollow yarn membrane-filter is made by, as shown in Figure 5, bending multiple slender hollow yarn membranes 2 in U-shape, bonding both ends of the hollow yarn membranes 2 to form a hollow yarn membrane-module 1, attaching the module to a tube plate 3, covering the outside of the module 1 with a protecting tube 4, and putting it in a trunk 6 having lids 5, 5a. It has a vent hole 18 at the upper part of the protecting tube 4. A reverse washing air line 13 having a reverse washing air valve 26 and a liquid outlet line 9 having an outlet valve 25 are connected to the upper lid 5. On the other hand, a liquid inlet line 8 having a liquid inlet valve 24 and a reverse washing water discharge line 12 having a reverse washing water discharge port 10 and a reverse washing water discharge valve 17 are installed at the lower lid 5a. Furthermore, a reverse washing vent line 11 and a reverse washing vent valve 16 are connected to the upper side surface of the trunk 6 while a bubbling air line 14 and a bubbling air valve 27 are connected to the lower side surface of the trunk 6.

In such a hollow yarn membrane-filter, it is important for expanding the application range of the hollow yarn membrane-filter to find out an effective reverse washing method, and various inventions and devises have been carried out. For instance, in the laid-open patent Sho 53[1978]-108882, a means for separating adhered fine particles by reverse washing with pressurized air and removing the adhered fine particles by vibrating hollow yarn membranes is disclosed.

Furthermore, a means for separating adhered fine particles by reverse washing with pressurized air and also removing the adhered fine particles by generating air at the side or bottom of the hollow yarn membrane for vibrating the hollow yarn membrane is disclosed in the laid-open patent Sho 60[1985]-19002.

Problem to be solved by the invention

In the laid-open patent Sho 53[1978]-108882 and the laid-open patent Sho 60[1985]-19002, however, the behavior of liquid level in the trunk is not described. When reverse washing is carried out by these means, a phenomenon of gradually lowering the liquid level in the trunk during reverse washing occurs. By this, the upper part of the hollow yarn membrane-module is exposed to air so that the effect of vibrating the hollow yarn membrane by air is reduced by a half and a phenomenon of keeping separated fine particles in the protecting tube and adhering again the particles to the hollow yarn membrane also occurs. Furthermore, there occurs such a problem that exposure of hollow yarn membrane to air becomes a cause for deterioration of the hollow yarn membrane according to the type of hollow yarn membrane.

Furthermore, it is necessary for executing effectively the reverse washing means to take the flow rate of reverse flowing water being pushed out by reverse washing air at the initial stage of reverse washing at a fixed level or higher and to install a large-diameter vent nozzle since the diameter of vent nozzle is selected by pressure loss of reverse washing water and there exists a task for making the hollow yarn membrane-filter larger.

The present invention is carried out for solving the aforementioned problem and provides a reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters, which prevents the lowering of liquid level in the

trunk at reverse washing work, and moreover prevents enlargement of reverse vent line to improve the reverse washing efficiency.

Constitution of invention

Means to solve the problem

The present invention provides a reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters, which is characterized in that in a reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters, which comprises at least one porous hollow yarn membrane-module, a tube plate for holding the hollow yarn membrane-module, a protecting tube connected to the tube plate to protect each hollow yarn membrane-module, a trunk covering the outside of the protecting tube, a liquid inlet, a liquid outlet, a reverse washing water discharge port and a nozzle having vent function, all of which are connected to the trunk, and uses air as reverse washing means, it is constituted so as not to lower the liquid level in the trunk below a fixed level.

Action

The lowering of liquid level in the trunk can be prevented by making the liquid level h_1 of the filter at bubbling equal ($h_1 = h_2$) to the height h_2 from the floor surface of the highest part in the tube inner surface of reverse washing vent line and installing a communicating tube between the upper part of the trunk and the reverse washing vent line. Furthermore, the reverse washing vent can be used also as the reverse washing water discharge line and the reverse washing vent used only for discharge of air at bubbling and its diameter becomes small, and in addition it can be used also a communicating tube.

Furthermore, the siphon phenomenon can be prevented by installing a siphon brake valve.

Application examples

The first application example of the reverse washing apparatus for hollow yarn membrane-filters relating to the present invention is explained by using Figure 1.

Mark 1 in Figure 1 represents a hollow yarn membrane-module which is obtained by turning up both ends of plural hollow yarn membranes 2 into U-letter shape, bundling up and fixing the upper base part with a resin. The hollow yarn membrane-module 1 is vertically installed liquid-tightly to the tube plate 3 from the liquid plate 3, and a protecting tube 4 is attached to the tube plate 3 so as to cover each hollow yarn membrane-module 1. A vent hole 18 is formed at the upper part of the protecting tube 4. The hollow yarn membrane-filter has the tube plate 3 and the hollow yarn membrane-module 1, which are covered by a trunk 6 having a liquid inlet 8, a communicating tube 7 and a reverse washing water discharge port 10 and a bubbling air inlet 14 and also by a lid 5 having a liquid outlet 9. Furthermore, the reverse washing water discharge port 10 installed at the bottom of the trunk 6 is branched into a reverse washing vent line 11 and a reverse washing water discharging line 12, and the highest part of the tube inner surface of the reverse washing vent line 11 has a height of h₂ from the floor surface. The relation with the filter water level h₁ during bubbling becomes h₁=h₂, and a reverse washing vent valve 16 and a reverse washing water discharge valve 17 are installed at each.

A communicating valve 15 is installed at the communicating tube 7 which connects the upper part of the trunk 6 of the hollow yarn membrane-filter with the reverse washing vent line 11.

When reverse washing is carried out in the aforementioned hollow yarn membrane-filter, first the liquid inlet valve 24 and the liquid outlet valve 25 are closed, then the reverse washing air valve 26 is opened to pressurize water stored in the lid 5 of the hollow yarn membrane-filter trunk 6. Then, the reverse washing vent valve 16 is opened and the back flowing of the water is vigorously carried out.

After that, reverse washing is carried out by maintaining the state of bubbling air filling the bottom of the hollow yarn membrane-module 1 for a fixed time by opening the bubbling air valve 27.

At the initial period of reverse washing, it enters a so-called air pump state in the protecting tube 4 by the action of air bubbles 22 of bubbling air as shown in Figure 2, and water 23 in the protecting tube 4 is spouted out vigorously from the vent hole 18 so that the water in the protecting tube 4 enters a circulation state. By this, the bottom end section of the fixed part of the hollow yarn membrane 2 fixed by a resin at the upper part of the hollow yarn membrane-module 1, namely the adhesion root section of the hollow yarn membrane 2, is washed and the adhered impurities separated from the hollow yarn membrane 2 do not remain in the protecting tube 4 so that re-adhesion of the impurities to the hollow yarn membrane 2 does not occur.

However, the liquid level in the trunk 6 lowers slowly as time goes on and the water spouted out vigorously from the vent hole 18 of the protecting tube 4 slowly loses its strength and becomes as Figure 3. Then, the air pump state disappears so that washing of the adhesion root part of the hollow yarn membrane 2 stops and the adhered impurities separated from the hollow yarn membrane 2 stay in the protecting tube 4, causing re-adhesion to the hollow yarn membrane 2.

It is considered for the above situation that the reverse washing effect vanishes on and after loss of air pump state by lowering of liquid level in the trunk 6 even when air bubbling time (reverse washing time) is, for instance, 30 min so that not only its time can not be used profitably but also the reverse washing effect has a rather reverse effect as mentioned above. This state is caused by incoming of water spouted out vigorously from the vent hole 18 of the protecting tube 4 at the state of Figure 2 in the reverse vent line 11 of conventional example shown in Figure 5.

In the present application example, water kept in the lid 5 by reverse washing air at the initial period of reverse washing is flowed backward in the hollow yarn membrane 2 and discharged from the bottom

of the filter through the reverse washing water discharge port 10 and reverse washing vent line 11 since the reverse washing water discharge port 10 is installed at the bottom of the filter. The liquid level of the filter is stopped in the surely controlled state at the necessary liquid level in bubbling as far as the siphon phenomenon does not occur, ideally since the highest part of the tube inner surface of the reverse washing vent line 11 is set at the same height as necessary liquid level of the filter in bubbling. In this case, if the communicating valve 15 is opened simultaneously with the reverse washing vent valve 16, the siphon phenomenon is prevented and the liquid level of the filter is stopped in the surely controlled state at the necessary liquid level in bubbling. Furthermore, if the bubbling starts, water in such an amount corresponding to the portion of air bubbles 22 of bubbling air is discharged but the liquid level does not lower anymore from it.

By this, the air pump state is always maintained so that whole reverse washing time is effectively used and the reverse washing efficiency is improved. The improvement of the reverse washing efficiency not only contributes to the life extension of hollow yarn membrane-modules but also reduces the radiation exposure of workers in regular inspection, especially in the case when those are used in, for instance, the treatment of radioactive waste solutions or condensed water of a nuclear power station.

Next, the second application example of the present invention is explained by using Figure 4. Same marks are used for those which are the same in Figure 1 of the present invention.

In the diagram, mark 1 represents a hollow yarn membrane-module, which is obtained by turning up both ends of plural hollow yarn membranes 2 into U-letter shape, bundling up and fixing the upper base part with a resin. The hollow yarn membrane-module 1 is installed vertically and liquid-tightly to the tube plate 3 from the liquid plate 3, and a protecting tube 4 is attached to the tube plate 3 so as so to cover each hollow yarn membrane-module 1. A vent hole 18 is formed at the upper part of the protecting tube 4. The hollow yarn membrane-filter has the tube plate 3 and the hollow yarn

membrane-module 1, which are covered by a trunk 6 having a liquid inlet 8, a communicating tube 7 and a reverse washing water discharge port 10 and a bubbling air inlet 14 and also by a lid 5 having a liquid outlet 9. Furthermore, the reverse washing water discharge port 10 installed at the bottom of the trunk 6 is branched into a reverse washing vent line 11 and a reverse washing water discharging line 12, and the lowest part of the tube inner surface of the reverse washing vent line 11 has a height of h_2 from the floor surface. The relation with the filter water level h_1 during bubbling becomes h_1 = h_2 , and a reverse washing vent valve 16 and a reverse washing water discharge valve 17 are installed at each.

A siphon brake valve 19 is installed at the reverse washing vent line 11. When reverse washing is carried out in the aforementioned hollow yarn membrane-filter, first the liquid inlet valve 24 and the liquid outlet valve 25 are closed, then the reverse washing air valve 26 is opened to pressurize water stored in the lid 5 of the hollow yarn membrane-filter trunk 6. Then, the reverse washing vent valve 16 is opened and the back flowing of the water is vigorously carried out. After that, reverse washing is carried out by keeping up the state of filling bubbling air in the bottom of the hollow yarn membrane-module 1 for a fixed time by opening the bubbling air valve 27.

At the initial period of reverse washing, it enters a so-called air pump state in the protecting tube 4 by the action of air bubbles 22 of bubbling air as shown in Figure 2, and water 23 in the protecting tube 4 is spouted out vigorously from the vent hole 18 so that the water in the protecting tube 4 enters a circulation state. By this, the bottom end section of the fixed part of the hollow yarn membrane 2 fixed by a resin at the upper part of the hollow yarn membrane-module 1, namely the adhesion root section of the hollow yarn membrane 2, is washed and the adhered impurities separated from the hollow yarn membrane 2 do not remain in the protecting tube 4 so that re-adhesion of the impurities to the hollow yarn membrane 2 does not occur.

However, the liquid level in the trunk 6 lowers slowly as time goes on and the water spouted out vigorously from the vent hole 18 of the protecting tube 4 slowly loses its strength and becomes as Figure 3. Then, the air pump state disappears so that washing of the adhesion root part of the hollow yarn membrane 2 stops and the adhered impurities separated from the hollow yarn membrane 2 stay in the protecting tube 4 to cause re-adhesion to the hollow yarn membrane 2.

It is considered for the above situation that the reverse washing effect vanishes on and after loss of air pump state by lowering of liquid level in the trunk 6 even when air bubbling time (reverse washing time) is, for instance, 30 min, so that not only its time can not be used profitably but also the reverse washing effect has a rather reverse effect as mentioned above. This state is caused by incoming of water spouted out vigorously from the vent hole 18 of the protecting tube 4 at the state of Figure 2 in the reverse vent line 11 of conventional example shown in Figure 5.

In the present application example, water kept in the lid 5 by reverse washing air at the initial period of reverse washing back washes the hollow yarn membrane 2 and discharges from the bottom of the filter through the reverse washing water discharge port 10 and reverse washing vent line 11, since the reverse washing water discharge port 10 is installed at the bottom of the filter. The liquid level of the filter is stopped in the surely controlled state at the necessary liquid level in bubbling since the lowest part of the tube inner surface of the reverse washing vent line 11 is set at the same height as necessary liquid level of the filter in bubbling and the siphon brake valve 19 is installed. Furthermore, if the bubbling starts, water in such an amount corresponding to the portion of air bubbles 22 of bubbling air is discharged but the liquid level does not lower anymore from it.

By this, the air pump state is always maintained so that whole reverse washing time is effectively used and the reverse washing efficiency is improved. The improvement of the reverse washing efficiency not only contributes to the life extension of hollow yarn membrane-modules but also reduces

the radiation exposure of workers in regular inspection especially in the case when those are used in, for instance, the treatment of radioactive waste solutions or condensed water of a nuclear power station.

Effect of the invention

According to the present invention, the improvement of reverse washing efficiency can be expected by constituting so as not to lower the liquid level in the trunk of hollow yarn membrane-filter below a fixed level and the life of hollow yarn membrane can be extended by improvement of the reverse washing efficiency. Furthermore, it is particularly useful when used in the treatment of radioactive waste solutions and condensed water of a nuclear power station and it also relates to reduction of radiation exposure of workers in regular inspection.

Brief description of the figures

Figure 1 is a system diagram showing a first application example of a reverse washing apparatus of hollow yarn membrane-filter relating to the present invention. Figure 2 and Figure 3 are a partial cross sectional view of a hollow yarn membrane-filter for explaining the action of the present invention. Figure 4 is a system diagram showing a second application example of a reverse washing apparatus of hollow yarn membrane-filter relating to the present invention in the same way. Figure 5 is a system diagram showing a conventional reverse washing apparatus of hollow yarn membrane-filter.

Explanation of symbols

- 1 Hollow yarn membrane-module
- 2 Hollow yarn membrane
- 3 Tube plate

Protecting tube 4 Lid 5 6 Trunk Communicating tube 7 Liquid inlet 8 Liquid outlet 9 Reverse washing water discharge port 10 Reverse washing vent line 11 Reverse washing water discharge line 12 13 Reverse washing air line Bubbling air line 14 Communicating valve 15 16 Reverse washing vent valve Reverse water discharge valve 17 18 Vent hole 19 Siphon brake valve Bubbling vent line 20 Bubbling vent valve 21 Bubbling air 22 23 Sater 24 Liquid inlet valve Liquid outlet valve 25

Reverse washing air valve

26

L Water level

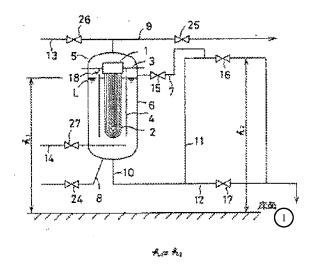


Figure 1

Key: 1 Floor surface

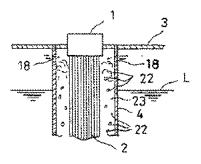


Figure 2

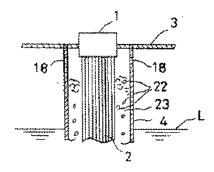


Figure 3

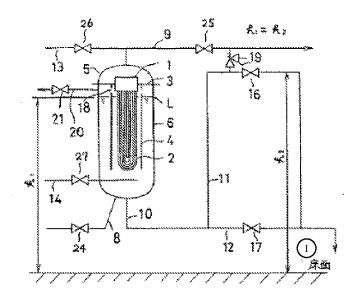


Figure 4

Key: 1 Floor surface

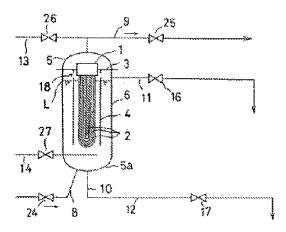


Figure 5